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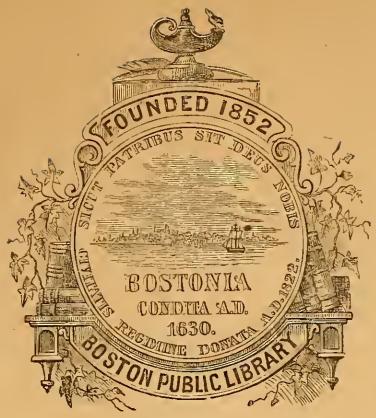

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PAMPHLETS.

(Theology.)

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MEMORANDA.

GENERATION, REGENERATION, AND CONVERSION,

AS MATTERS OF FACT.

A birth into the human family is the advent of a new human capacity. This capacity makes it possible for the new-born child, by suitable culture, to be developed into a man.

A birth into the Lord's family is the advent of a new spiritual capacity. This capacity makes it possible for the new-born babe, by suitable culture, to be developed into a perfect man in Christ Jesus.

These two capacities belong to "every man that cometh into the world" by virtue of his connection with Adam and Christ; the one the Father, and the other the Redeemer "of all mankind."

The culture of the human capacity is a duty thrust upon the parents by natural law.

The culture of the spiritual capacity is made obligatory upon the church by gracious requirement.

Thus the child, generated in Adam, by force of the principle of human life, is born by natural birth into an earthly household, that he may there develope and mature as a mortal, and the same child regenerated in Christ by the power of the Holy Ghost, is born "by water" into the heavenly household, that he may there develope and mature as an immortal.

Therefore there are two starting points in the culture of man's double nature; natural birth and christian baptism, or *generation* and *regeneration*.

By proper culture the child acquires the power of discerning between good and evil. Should he discover, at any stage of his developement, that the evil, hitherto chosen, threatens loss, and, to secure safety, change his course; then a rejection of the evil and an acceptance of the good, will evidence repentance and faith, or *spiritual conversion*.

Thus three wills are involved. In Generation, that of the earthly father; in Regeneration, that of the heavenly Father; and in Conversion, that of the intelligent offspring.

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